City Council.

The Council was in regular session last night, all the members present except Messrs. Craig and Bell—President Berkeley in the Chair.

The petition of W. H. Kable for reduction of water-tax was reported upon by the finance committee adversely, and then the same was recommitted.

Mr. McQuaide reported that the Street Committee had investigated the cost of widening Water street between Main and Frederick and that it would be $4,000.

The recommendation to place the Council Messenger, Peyton Hutchins, on the Police force, was reported upon favorably by Mr. Weller from that Committee, and then the matter was referred to the Ordinance Committee for amendment of the ordinance, the city now having the number of policemen allowed.

Mr. Tams, from the Public Grounds Committee, reported that the adjoining lot east of the white school building could be purchased for $1,800

On motion of Mr. Bargamin, the painting of the City Hall building was ordered

About forty property-owners were required to repair side-walks in front of their premises and the Committee on streets to see to it.

The tax bill for the year 1888-90 was presented and considered. This bill does not materially differ from the present one in regard to licenses on various subjects and rates of taxes. The revenue for the year is estimated at $71,500.

In the report of the committee presenting the bill, they show an increase of $1,220 appropriated to public schools over last year—two additional teachers having been employed

They recommend the calling in of $3,400 of 8 per cent coupon bonds, subject to call next January, and the issue of 6 per cent bonds in lieu.

The city finances are reported in a healthy condition.

Appropriations are made as follows: New boiler at Water Works, $1,000; tower for city clock, $1,000; clock complete, $850; fire alarm apparatus, &c., $2,800. These extra appropriations necessarily reduce the amounts committees would otherwise have had.

Mr Tams, Chairman of the Finance Committee, briefly and clearly explained the bill and referred to the sound condition of the City finances.

The application of the Staunton Improvement company to build a street railway was presented and referred, It will be a net work and a belt line. The company obligates itself to commence the work in six months after the right is granted and that no charge on passenger shall exceed ten cents.

The Ordinance regulating the placing of signs on business houses is an old one passed in 1880. It was amended and defines the privilege to be limited to the curbstone line and not less than light put high above the side-walk.

A Petition for better drainage along East Beverley; another concerning the unsafe and disreputable house near the United Brethren Church; and a paper concerning the Telephone service were referred.

The controversy in the courts about damage to the property of Robert Knightly near the Water Works, in operating the works, was fully reported upon by the counsellors for the city—Messrs. A. C. Braxton and T. C. Elder The damage to Knightly of $500 and costs in one of the suits, about $40, were directed to be paid, and proper title to the property thus procured be obtained.